

d.) Remarks:

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for terminology included in claim 20. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish applicant's invention more clearly over the disclosure of the references of record, including the patents to Pankuch et al (Pankuch) and DiMarino et al (DiMarino). As amended, claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of allowable claim 2, thereby rendering claim 1 allowable.

Each of claims 2-14 depends, ultimately, on claim 1 and, therefore, should be allowable along with its parent claim.

Claims 10, 13, and 15 have been amended to overcome typographical mistakes.

Newly presented claim 20 is based on claim 1, but differs from the latter by specifying that the projections of applicant's construction are free from the adjacent wall and are spaced from one another by a gap. As the examiner has noted the inner walls 42 and 54 of Pankuch are not notched to form a plurality of projections, so such walls cannot really be considered to be a plurality of projections.

However, the examiner relies upon DiMarino for a disclosure of projections. Although the members 28 and 26 of DiMarino do appear to be projections, the member 26 in each case is joined or connected to the adjacent wall 12. As a consequence, only those portions of the members 26

which extend beyond the members 28 can exert any lateral retention force on the impression material carried by the tray. In applicant's construction, however, the full area of each projection 11 engages the impression material and, accordingly, is capable of exerting considerable lateral retention force on the impression material. This is of significance in minimizing inward displacement of the impression material both laterally and longitudinally of the limbs during the setting of the impression material and the removal of the tray from a patient's mouth.

These characteristics of the projections of applicant's construction are set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the specification. The reasons the projections of applicant's construction possess these characteristics is because the projections are spaced from one another by gaps and because they are free from the adjacent wall. Thus, the advantages attributable to applicant's construction are set forth in claim 20. Since none of the references discloses or suggests the provision of projections that are spaced from one another and free from the adjacent wall, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is allowable.

Each of claims 21 and 22 depends on claim 20 and, accordingly, distinguishes over the references for the same reasons given in support of the parent claim.

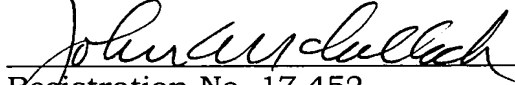
It is believed this application now is in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$18 for payment of the additional claims fee.

The Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 50-2676.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his attorney,

  
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